

The claimed invention is:

1. A compressed, individually packaged unused absorbent article, comprising:
 - a sealed package having an internal volume; and
 - a single, unused, absorbent article located in the internal volume, the absorbent article having a compressed state and uncompressed state, the sealed package holding the absorbent article in the compressed state.
2. The packaged absorbent article according to claim 1 wherein the absorbent article is a diaper.
3. The packaged absorbent article according to claim 1 wherein the absorbent article is a compressible feminine hygiene product.
4. The packaged absorbent article according to claim 1 wherein the absorbent article is a medical product.
5. The packaged absorbent article according to claim 1 further comprising a wet wiping element surrounded by moisture impermeable surfaces and enclosed in the package.
6. The packaged absorbent article according to claim 1 wherein such compression reduces the volume of the packaged absorbent article by about 30% to about 70%.
7. The packaged absorbent article according to claim 1 wherein such compression reduces the volume of the packaged absorbent article by about 40% or more.

8. The packaged absorbent article according to claim 1 wherein such compression reduces the volume of the packaged absorbent article by about 55% or more.

9. The packaged absorbent article according to claim 1 further comprising a selectively openable region in the packaging wherein the selectively openable region allows for easier opening of the package.

10. The packaged absorbent article according to claim 1 wherein the absorbent article is folded together about two fold axes while in the uncompressed state.

11. The packaged absorbent article according to claim 1 wherein the absorbent article is folded together about three fold axes while in the uncompressed state.

12. The packaged absorbent article according to claim 1 wherein the absorbent article is rolled while in the uncompressed state.

13. A compressed, individually packaged unused absorbent article, comprising:

a single, unused, sanitary absorbent article having first and second form factors, the second form factor being substantially smaller than the first form factor; and

a sealable package having an internal volume sized to receive the absorbent article when in the first form factor, and configured to be sealed with the absorbent article maintained in second form factor inside the package when sealed.

14. The packaged absorbent article according to claim 13 wherein the volume of the absorbent article's second form factor is about 30% to about 70% of the absorbent article's first form factor.

15. The packaged absorbent article according to claim 13 wherein the volume of the absorbent article's second form factor is about 40% or more of the absorbent article's first form factor.

16. The packaged absorbent article according to claim 13 wherein the volume of the absorbent article's second form factor is about 55% or more of the absorbent article's first form factor.

] 17. A method of compressing and packaging a single unused sanitary absorbent article in a sealable, compressible package, the method comprising:
inserting a single unused sanitary absorbent article into the package;
compressing the absorbent article to reduce the size of the absorbent article; and
sealing the package, the sealed package maintaining the article in a compressed state.

18. The method of claim 17 further comprising folding the unused absorbent article about two fold axes before inserting the uncompressed article into the package.

19. The method of claim 17 further comprising rolling the unused absorbent article before inserting the uncompressed article into the package.

20. The method of claim 17, wherein the compressing is accomplished by vacuum.

21. The method of claim 17, wherein the absorbent article is inserted into the package while the article is uncompressed, and the article is subsequently compressed.

22. A compressed, individually packaged unused diaper comprising:
a sealed package comprised of airtight material;

a folded diaper having compressed and uncompressed states wherein the compressed state occupies about 30% to about 70% less volume than the uncompressed state and the package maintains the absorbent article in the compressed state.

a selectively openable region in the package allowing easy opening of the package and access to the absorbent article.